



SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

DEC 15 2008

To our Airmen and families:

The holidays give each of us an opportunity to reflect on our accomplishments of the past year and cherish time with our families. It is also a time to look forward to a new year of opportunities, both collectively and individually.

Our Air Force faced difficult challenges this year and all of you responded admirably in meeting them. As a Service, we renewed our focus on stewardship, accountability, precision and reliability. These are the hallmarks of our Core Values—integrity, service and excellence. Each and every one of you is vitally important. Our role as trustworthy partners in today's Joint and Coalition fight depends on your day-to-day contributions. We could not be more proud of all you do to demonstrate that the Air Force is "all in" and devoted to winning today's fight while preparing for tomorrow's challenges.

During this holiday season, you can reflect with pride that many of our great Nation's Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Coast Guardsmen and Airmen may safely celebrate with their families because of your contribution. The Global Vigilance, Reach, and Power you collectively provide for the Nation are vital to our security, both at home and abroad. In the coming year, we will continue to innovate the air, space and cyberspace capabilities we provide Combatant Commanders. You are the strength of our Air Force and its greatest asset. It is our privilege to serve with you all, and we are grateful for the support your families so faithfully provide.

We recognize your service requires great sacrifice. While many Airmen will enjoy time with their families this holiday season, tens of thousands more are separated from loved ones or far from home because of their selfless service to the Nation. We honor all of you, your service, and your families who share in your sacrifice. We wish you all a safe and happy holiday season.

Norton A. Schwartz
General, USAF
Chief of Staff

Michael B. Donley
Secretary of the Air Force

Rodney J. McKinley
Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force